

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 959

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: CLAUDE WAGNER GIVES UP KEY PC ROLE

1. PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) LEADER JOE CLARK
ANNOUNCED SEPT 3 THAT CLAUDE WAGNER, CLOSE RUNNER-UP
FOR THE PC LEADERSHIP IN FEBRUARY AND THE FRENCH
CANADIAN IN NATIONAL PC CIRCLES, WAS RESIGNING AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE PC COMMITTEE OF CAUCUS CHARMEN. BEGIN FYI:
THIS CONVOLUTED TITLE IS BEST TRANSLATED AS DE FACTO
COORDINATOR OF PC CAUCUS POLICY. THE INCUMBENT IS FIRST AMONG
SHADOW CABINET MINISTER EQUALS. THE POSITION HAS
TRADITIONALLY BEEN HELD BY THE PARTY LEADER AND CLARK'S
GIVING IT TO WAGNER AFTER THE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION
WAS SEEN AS AN OLIVE BRANCH GESTURE TO WAGNER'S BACKERS
FROM QUEBEC. END FYI. CLARK HAS ASSUMED THE ADDED
ROLE. BOTH HE AND WAGNER STATED THAT THE REASON FOR
THE MOVE WAS TO ALLOW WAGNER MORE TIME FOR HIS DUTIES
AS FOREIGN POLICY CRITIC.

2. COMMENT: MUCH AS THE MEDIA AND PC FOES WOULD LIKE
TO BUILD THE WAGNER RESIGNATION INTO A CLARK/WAGNER OR
ENGLISH/FRENCH SCHISM, AVAILABLE EVIDENCE DOES NOT
SUPPORT THE THEORY. WAGNER WAS REPORTEDLY HOSPITALIZED
LAST SPRING AND HIS GIVING UP THIS KEY POLICY ROLE
COULD REPRESENT A DESIRE TO REDUCE HIS WORK LOAD. BUT
THERE ARE NO PRESENT SIGNS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
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CLARK AND WAGNER. THEY ARE NOW, FOR EXAMPLE,

TRAVELING TOGETHER THROUGH EUROPE ON AN EXPOSURE MISSION
NOT UNLIKE CLARK'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST JUNE.
DUEMLING

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Message Attributes

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